out a year and three months before I saw any more of them; and, to waive all this for a while, it was in the middle of May, on the sixteenth day I think, as well as my poor wooden calendar would reckon (for I marked ail upon the post still)—I say, it was the sixteenth of May that it blew a very great storm of wind all day, with a great deal of lightning and thunder, and a very foul night it was after it. As I was reading in the Bible, and taken up with very serious* thoughts about my present condition, I was surprised with the noise of a gun, as I thought, fired at sea,

I immediately considered that this must be some ship in distress, and I thought that, though I could not help them, it may be they might help me ; so I brought together all the dry wood I could get at hand, and, making a good handsome pile, I set it on fire upon the hill. The wood was dry and blazed freely; and though the wind blew very

hard, it burnt fairly out; so I was certain, if there was any such thing as a ship, they must needs see it, and no doubt they did; for as soon as my fire blamed up I heard another gun, and after that several others, all from the same quarter.